

becomes aggregated with and entraps the beads, rather than "becomes non-specifically associated with the beads".

The above change is supported by the disclosure on page 7, lines 3 to 5 and 21 to 23, as well as page 12, lines 32 and 33 of the present specification.

Since it is considered that the term "aggregated with and entraps the beads" may differ in scope from the term which it replaces, i.e., "becomes non-specifically associated with the beads", the above amendment is made without prejudice to the filing of a divisional application for claims containing the latter terminology.

Favorable action is now requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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September 27, 1995

acid, comprising the steps of:

precipitating the nucleic acid out of the starting solution in the presence of the suspended magnetically attractable beads whereby a nucleic acid precipitate becomes non-specifically associated with the beads,

the low molecular weight nucleic acid from the first precipitate
and the first beads,

~~precipitating the low molecular weight nucleic
acid out of the starting solution in the presence of [the] second
suspended magnetically attractable beads whereby a low molecular~~

~~WW~~

~~23~~

~~[a] the first supernatant liquid,~~

~~adding a first liquid to the first precipitate and
beads to selectively re-dissolve the protein and re-suspend the
beads and the associated nucleic acid,~~

nucleic acid in the presence of second suspended magnetically
attractable beads whereby a nucleic acid precipitate becomes [non-
specifically associated with] the second beads;

applying a magnetic field to draw down the nucleic
acid precipitate and the associated second beads and to form a
second supernatant liquid;

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